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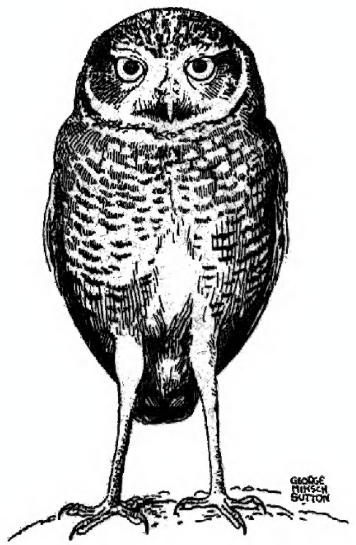

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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, June-July 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Overall, this was a fairly routine summer although birders in Nebraska know that "routine" still holds promise of a few happenings out of the ordinary. The summer season primarily examines new breeding records, range expansions, and changes in numbers, up or down. Mississippi Kites were conspicuous, a pair providing Scottsbluff's first breeding record, but a repeating pair in Lincoln, *Lancaster* lost its nest in a windstorm. The first nesting record for Violet-Green Swallow for *Sheridan*, 7th nesting for White-winged Dove, and 9th for Short-eared Owl were all encouraging, as was an apparent family group of Northern Saw-whet Owls in *Sioux*. Known for scattered nestings, Red Crossbills in Valentine, Red-breasted Nuthatches in Norfolk, and Pine Siskins in Omaha provided unexpected records. Breeding has not been proven in the Wildcat Hills for Plumbeous Vireo or Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, but accumulating reports there are suggestive, as are increasing breeding season reports of Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Slow range expansion of Pileated Woodpecker in the northeast and Barred Owl in the Niobrara River Valley is underway. Sedge Wrens are increasingly reported in May-Jun whereas most previous breeding records were in Jul-Aug. Potential range expansions to be looked for are Clay-colored Sparrow, 6th record for summer, and Field Sparrow on the Pine Ridge, 6th summer record there. Also, Chuck-will's-widow westerly, and Lesser Goldfinch, Henslow's Sparrow, and Red-shouldered Hawk northerly. Possibly also in the potential breeders category were four species of diving ducks rarely reported in summer: Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Encouraging were reports of Black-billed Magpie at Calamus Reservoir, *Loup*, where low numbers have persisted albeit rarely reported. The presence of 12 Pinyon Jays in Smiley Canyon, *Sioux* added to the intrigue surrounding this species' occurrence in Nebraska, and an odd distributional record was of a Mountain Plover on grasslands in northern *Sioux,* perhaps re-occupying seemingly suitable habitat for the first time in over a hundred years.

Summer is generally not the best season for rarities, although Nebraska's 5th Anna's Hummingbird was a surprise in *Scotts Bluff*. Black-chinned Hummingbird reports continue to increase, the 15th-17th reported also in *Scotts Bluff*. A Prairie Warbler provided the 15th state record. Quite out of place for the dates were a Swainson's Thrush in Lincoln, *Lancaster* 19-22 Jun, and a female Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Sioux* 21-23 Jun.

Each season has its list of amazing counts; most eye-popping this summer were 1295 Eared Grebes, 3730 Western Grebes assembling early, 52 Marbled Godwits, 147 Great Blue Herons also assembling early, 97 House Wrens, and a spectacular 116 Orchard Orioles.

I very much appreciate the 133 observers whose sightings, recordings, and photographs I included in this report, and the many more whose sightings, while

extremely valuable in providing context that make more obvious those of significance, did not quite make this seasonal summary.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak Lake SRA, *Lancaster*
CLNWR: Crescent Lake NWR, *Garden*
CSP: Chadron SP, *Dawes*
FF: Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*
GB: Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux*
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, *Nemaha* and *Richardson* Cos
LM: Lake McConaughy, *Keith*
LO: Lake Ogallala, *Keith*
LSWNP: Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Park, *Lancaster*
m.ob.: multiple observers
NM: National Monument
NNF Bessey: Nebraska National Forest, *Thomas*
NNF McKelvie: Nebraska National Forest, *Cherry*
NOURC: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
NVP: Niobrara Valley Preserve, *Brown* and *Keya Paha*
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PRSP: Platte River SP, *Cass*
PSP: Ponca SP, *Dixon*
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including several south-central and southeastern playa basins
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, *Lancaster*
SHP: State Historical Park
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WHNC: Wildcat Hills Nature Center, *Scotts Bluff*
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area
WTP: Water Treatment Plant

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William Kirsch (WK)
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Elena Klaver (EK)
Steve Kruse (SK)
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Sam Manning (SMa)
Freya McGregor (FM)
Thomas Meinzen (TMe)
Steve Mlodinow (SMl)
Dorothy Mohr (DM)
Jeanine Mohr (JMo)
Wayne Mollhoff (WM)
Jojo Morelli (JM)
Steve Morris (SM)
Norman Murray (NM)
Lucas Negus (LNe)
Jonathan Nikkila (JNi)
Brian Nordstrom (BN)
Jim Ochsner (JO)
Karl Overman (KO)
Loren & Babs Padelford (L&BP)
Don & Jan Paseka (D&JP)
Nathan Pieplow (NP)
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Jerry Probst (JPr)
Lanny Randolph (LR)
Randy Rasmussen (RR)
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David Rintoul (DRi)
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John Schukman (JSc)
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Pat Shurtliff (PSh)
Kent Skaggs (KSk)
Marie Smith (MS)
Matt Smith (MSm)
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Linda Sullivan (LSu)
Lee Sutcliffe (LSt)
Jim & Linda Swenson (J&LS)
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Michael Willison (MW)
Elizabeth Winter (EWi)
Gregory Wright (GWr)
Aaron Yappert (AY)
Cindy Zimmerman (CZ)

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: There were three reports of this increasingly reported southerner. A flock of 10 appeared at Hawaiian Village, *Sarpy* 9 Jun (CZ), dwindling to one on 11 Jun and up to three by 16 Jun when last reported (m. ob.). Two were at Kissinger WMA, *Clay* 9 Jun (ND), and two near Shelby, *Polk* 23 Jun (CCm fide JGJ).

Snow Goose: Routine reports.

Ross's Goose: None were reported of this annual but rare summer straggler.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Rare but annual in summer, the only report was of one at Crystal Springs Park, *Jefferson* 25-28 Jul (SMa, WF).

Cackling Goose: The first summer Panhandle records were of singles at Oliver Reservoir, *Kimball* 5 Jun (SMl) and at Scottsbluff WTP, *Scotts Bluff* 8 Jul (SMl, CC). Rare in the east, one was at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 14 Jun (SMa).

Canada Goose: Routine reports.

Mute Swan: Reports of feral birds continue from North Park, Holdrege, *Phelps*, where five were present 3 Jul (BG). Another was hanging around Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, *Douglas* 6 Jun (DHe).

Trumpeter Swan: The long-standing Ravenna, *Buffalo* extralimital breeding site was occupied by two adults, but as of 16 Jul no young had been seen (WF).

Wood Duck: Routine reports.

Blue-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Cinnamon Teal: A male in transitional plumage (red eye, patches of brown-red feathers) in *Butler* 25 Jul (LE) was the only report from the east.

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Gadwall: Although no breeding evidence was noted, suggestive sightings away from the expected breeding range were of a pair at LaPlatte Bottoms, *Sarpy* 10-11 Jun. A second female was with them 11 Jun (SMa), and a single female was there 19 Jul (SMa). Elsewhere, seven were at a *Butler* wetland 16 Jun (LE), and singles were at North Lake Basin WMA, *Seward* 16 Jun (LE) and Flanagan Lake, *Douglas* 1 Jul (SMa).

American Wigeon: Late stragglers were a male at LaPlatte Bottoms, *Sarpy* 10-11 Jun (SMa), another in *Butler* 16 Jun (LE), and a single at North Platte WTP, *Lincoln* 18 Jun (BE).

Mallard: Routine reports.

Northern Pintail: Routine reports.

Green-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Canvasback: None were reported of this rare, locally common, breeder in the western Sandhills.

Redhead: Routine reports.

Ring-necked Duck: Any Jun-Jul sightings are unexpected, especially those suggestive of breeding. Equivocal photos of a possible brood 27-30 Jul were taken at the same location at NNF Bessey, *Thomas* where a brood was documented in 2019 (GWr). One at a *Butler* wetland 10 Jun (LE) may have summered there; there were further sightings there 10 and 25 Jul (LE). One in *Dodge* 24 Jul (CCr photo) was likely a molt migrant. One at North Lake Basin WMA, *Seward* 16 Jun (LE) and two at Swan Lake, *Holt* 20 Jun (J&LS) were spring stragglers.

Lesser Scaup: A molting male at Flanagan Lake, *Douglas* 23 Jun (SMa) was one of fewer than 20 summer (20 Jun- 8 Sep) reports away from the Sandhills and RWB.

Bufflehead: A probable non-breeding immature in *Hall* 13-14 Jun (CCh) was one of only six summer (5 Jun-10 Sep) reports away from the Panhandle and western Sandhills; another was at Crescent Lake, *Garden* 27 Jun (EK), where rare but not unexpected. Most Buffleheads do not breed until two years of age.

Common Goldeneye: Only the 14th summer (9 Jun-11 Sep) report was of two adult males on Lewis and Clark Lake, *Cedar/Knox* 16 Jun-26 Jul (MB, EBr, LBr).

Hooded Merganser: Rare in the west in summer (Jun-Jul), one was at CLNWR 4 Jun (SMl). At least five of the brood raised at Pioneers Park, *Lancaster* and reported in spring were still present through 22 Jun (LP, JJu, DBe).

Common Merganser: Breeding continued in the Norden Bridge area, *Keya Paha/Brown*; a hen and six well-grown young were 2.5 mi above the bridge 21 Jul (GW). Interesting was a pair loafing at Big Alkali Lake WMA, *Cherry* 5 Jul (BG); this location is about 30 miles southwest of Norden Bridge.

Ruddy Duck: Routine reports.

Northern Bobwhite: Singles at NNF McKelvie, *Cherry* 1 Jun (DSa) and in *Hooker* 10 Jul (KSk) were northwesterly, and 1-2 in a yard away from the South Platte River Valley south of Gering, *Scotts Bluff* on 5 and 13 Jun were a new yard bird for the veteran observer (AK).

Wild Turkey: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Routine reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Routine reports.

Gray Partridge: Rare in *Wayne*, two were about seven miles south of Wayne 11 Jul (EBr, LBr). The other seven reports were of pairs from expected locations in *Knox* (MB) and *Cedar* (EBr, m. ob.) through the period, an uptick from 2019.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: Two at Oliver Reservoir, *Kimball* 25 Jun (MGe) were at an unexpected breeding season location; no evidence for breeding was noted.

Horned Grebe: None were reported of this fairly common statewide spring migrant with latest expected dates 4-5 Jun.

Eared Grebe: By far a record spring and/or summer tally was the 1295 at Goose Lake, CLNWR, *Garden* 4 Jun (SMl), likely a mix of migrants and potential

summering birds. One in *Loup* 11 Jul (KSk) was out of the expected summer range for the date.

Western Grebe: The 3730 at LM 28 Jul was a painstaking tally by 10s (SMl); it is the high count for Jul, when numbers begin to build into fall staging. Good news regarding breeding success was reported from alkali lakes near Brownlee, *Cherry* 27 Jun, with many young present, the best showing "in at least two decades" (JED). Several adults with chicks were also at Merritt Reservoir, *Cherry* 22 Jun (WM).

Clark's Grebe: The only report was of two at Goose Lake, CLNWR, *Garden* 4 Jun (SMl).

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Routine reports.

White-winged Dove: Reports continue to increase rapidly; this period there were around 15 reports statewide of 1-2 birds (m. ob.), but reports of breeding are still scarce. Only the 7th report of breeding was of a pair in an Ogallala, *Keith* yard 13 Mar which began nestbuilding 7 May, two fledglings were seen 7 Jun, and a possible second brood may have accounted for the six birds, including two fledglings, present 26 Jul (JO).

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Some observers noted calling was ubiquitous, although numbers reported were not unusually high. Brood parasitism is rare in this species but does occur; one was seen briefly begging from an American Robin 23 Jul in *Douglas* (JR).

Black-billed Cuckoo: There were three reports, all of singles: 19 Jun NVP in *Brown* (DTo), PRSP, *Cass* 23 Jun (CNK), and Smith Falls SP, *Cherry* 7 Jul (FM).

Common Nighthawk: Routine reports.

Common Poorwill: The six at GB, *Sioux* 4 Jun (JCd) was a good summer count.

Chuck-will's-widow: Only the second record as far west as *Harlan* in the Republican River Valley was one calling 11 Jun (PD). One was recorded at the northernmost currently known site at South Shore, *Knox* 23-26 Jun (LBr, EBr, NP).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Routine reports.

Chimney Swift: Westernmost in the southern Panhandle were two at Bushnell, *Kimball* 25 Jun (NP) and 3-4 at Kimball, *Kimball* 5 and 23 Jun (SMl, DTh); the species has only recently established in that county.

White-throated Swift: At the east extent of the Pine Ridge summer range were 1-3 north of Hay Springs in Beaver Creek Valley, *Sheridan* 24 Jun (TMe).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Routine reports.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: The 15th-17th records for the state, nine of these in 2019 and 2020, were of males, possibly the same bird, in *Dawes* 9 and 20 Jun (JWh, video, photos) and a female in *Scotts Bluff* 19 Jul (MS, KD).

Anna's Hummingbird: A young male at the Smith feeders, *Scotts Bluff* from 13 Jul through the period (MS photo, m. ob.) was Nebraska's fifth, the first in 2016.

Calliope Hummingbird: First arrivals were singles at each of two feeder locations, one each in *Scotts Bluff* and *Dawes* on 11 Jul (JWh, MS). About nine in all were reported through 24 Jul (m. ob.).

Rufous Hummingbird: A total of at least 11 were reported in the Panhandle 11-25 Jul (m. ob.).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: The status of this species as a spring migrant and possible breeder in the Panhandle appears to be changing quite quickly. Since 2014, and including 2020, there are no fewer than 21 reports 5 May- 23 Jun, after which early migrants may arrive. Of the 21 spring reports, 17 have occurred 2018-2020. At the Whittecar feeders in *Dawes*, a female was present all spring, accompanied by a male 8-9 Jun (JWh, photos), suggestive of breeding, although no evidence was obtained. The female, identifiable by photos, departed 31 Jul after a feeding frenzy (JWh). A male and a female at WHNC, *Scotts Bluff* during 16-23 Jun (SMl, RSt, JNi) were also suggestive of breeding. The expected fall migrants arrived mostly on schedule, although a male at the *Dawes* location 30 Jun (JWh photo) was early; there are now some eight reports 22-30 Jun that are most likely fall migrants, since adult males leave breeding areas beginning in late Jun.

Virginia Rail: Two reports from the east-central, where rare in summer, may have been of late migrants, although two heard and recorded at Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton* 6 Jun (JTh) were suggestive of breeding there; the other report was of one seen and heard in *Butler* 4 Jun (JGJ).

Sora: The lack of summer records at LSWNP, *Lancaster* suggests that one there 12 Jul (ODa, SBr, JSS) was an early migrant.

American Coot: Routine reports.

Sandhill Crane: There were several reports from previously known breeding sites. A pair was at Chet and Jane Fleisbach WMA at Facus Springs, *Morrill* "again this year" although no young had been seen by 1 Jul (HBa fide JGJ). A "family" was being seen south of Niobrara, *Knox* (LNe fide JGJ), two were at Hutton Sanctuary, *Rock* 10 Jun (JSc); and a colt with two adults were seen there 19 Jul (DRi). Breeding probably occurred at Wellfleet WMA, *Lincoln* 2019 and 2020; this year two adults were acting territorially through 27 Jul although no nests or young have been found (SAd fide JGJ). Additional sightings in general areas where there have been previous summer reports but without proven breeding were of a flyover 30 Jun near Mitchell, *Scotts Bluff* (KD) and two overhead at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 31 Jul (LE). Two along the Niobrara River northeast of Bassett in *Rock* in late Jul (CHa) may have been the Hutton Sanctuary birds, as may have been one along Highway 137 in *Keya Paha* 3 Jun (T&AB). Finally, a family group was a few miles south of Wayne, *Wayne* 27 Jul-5 Aug (EBr, LBr, PR).

Black-necked Stilt: Although no breeding activity was noted, intriguing was the presence of as many as nine a few miles northwest of Grand Island, *Hall* 4 Jun-17 Jul (CCh, m. ob.). Many Black-necked Stilts do not breed until two years of age. Four at North Platte WTP, *Lincoln* 3 Jun (BE, EWi) and two at North Lake Basin WMA, *Seward* 6 Jun (JV) were probably tardy migrants, and two in *Buffalo* 17 Jul (AF) and a single in *Fillmore* 19 Jul (JGJ) were likely early fall migrants, along with two easterly, where rare, at LaPlatte Bottoms, *Sarpy* 22 Jul (L&BP).

American Avocet: As with Black-necked Stilt, mid-Jun through early Jul reports away from known breeding areas are probably immature non-breeders; reports were of one at LaPlatte Bottoms, *Sarpy* 13-17 Jun (L&BP, m. ob.), up to three a few miles northwest of Grand Island, *Hall* 13 Jun-7 Jul (RF, CCh), and one at BOL, *Lancaster* 27 Jun (LE).

Black-bellied Plover: Often found well into Jun, one in *Butler* 16 Jun (LE) was pushing the last expected dates.

American Golden-Plover: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 1-5 Jun and early fall dates 8-11 Jul.

Killdeer: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Plover: One in *Hall* 10 Jul (EWi) was early.

Piping Plover: Routine reports.

Mountain Plover: Most unexpected were the two along Prairie Dog Road, Hat Creek Valley, *Sioux* 2 Jul (TL, KMD). This may be the first record of the species from the northern Panhandle for over 100 years.

Snowy Plover: None were reported of this rare but annual breeder mostly in the northeast.

Upland Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Long-billed Curlew: Fall movement begins very early; a flock of 11 was in *Kimball* 2 Jul (CCh, photo).

Hudsonian Godwit: None were reported; last expected dates are 5-6 Jun.

Marbled Godwit: The 52 counted from a photo taken at Smith Lake, *Morrill* 5 Jul (TL, KMD) was 2nd-highest fall migration count on record. As with Long-billed Curlew, fall migration begins in mid-Jun. Two at LO, *Keith* 19 Jun (JGJ) were early.

Stilt Sandpiper: Singles in alternate plumage, quite likely the same bird given the unusual date, were in *Lancaster* at Oak Lake Park 20 Jun (SK photo, MW) and at BOL, *Lancaster* 28 Jun (MW, LSu photo); this was apparently an adult that suspended migration.

Sanderling: The 22 in *Box Butte* 3 Jul (TL, KMD) were early.

Baird's Sandpiper: Early were three in *Box Butte* 3 Jul (KMD, TL) and one at Rowe Sanctuary, *Buffalo* 7 Jul (WK, DK).

Least Sandpiper: Routine reports.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: None were reported; expected early fall dates are 17-19 Jul.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two at BOL 27-28 Jun (LE, MW) was only the 6th record for 20 Jun-1 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: None were reported; early expected fall dates are 4-6 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Routine reports.

American Woodcock: Routine reports.

Wilson's Snipe: Routine reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: There is a very short one-week window between spring and fall migration in this species, suggesting birds often do not complete northerly migration. Only the 7th record for 8-15 Jun was of one near Sutherland, *Lincoln* 13 Jun (BW).

Willet: Two at LM, *Keith* 6 Jun (JNi) were tardy for spring, and two at BOL, *Lancaster* 27 Jun (LE) were early for fall.

Greater Yellowlegs: Only the 20th report for the spring-fall window 6-21 Jun was of one at North Platte WTP, *Lincoln* 18 Jun (BE).

Wilson's Phalarope: Tardy spring migrants in probable non-breeding locales were three in *Custer* 4 Jun (LE) and one in *Pierce* 4 Jun (JTh).

Red-necked Phalarope: None were reported; expected early fall dates are 22-28 Jul.

Laughing Gull: The only report, Nebraska's 30th for summer, was of one at LM, *Keith* 28 Jul (SMl).

Franklin's Gull: Routine reports.

Ring-billed Gull: Routine reports.

California Gull: Routine reports.

Herring Gull: None were reported of this annual summer visitor at LM, *Keith.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The 13th and 14th summer records fit the previous pattern of most sightings being immatures at LM, *Keith*; this summer two were present for the period (SMl, JNi; photos).

Least Tern: Routine reports.

Caspian Tern: Mid-summer (12 Jun- 8 Jul) reports away from LM are rare; 3-4 were at BOL, *Lancaster* 28 Jun (EJ, MW, LSu).

Black Tern: Routine reports.

Common Tern: Only the second mid-summer (22 Jun-20 Jul) record was of one at Smith Lake, *Morrill* 5 Jul (TL, KMD).

Forster's Tern: A straggler still in winter plumage was in *Hall* 13 Jun (CCh). First fall migrants arrive at the end of Jun; early were two in *Hall* 26 Jun (CCh) and two at BOL, *Lancaster* 27-28 Jun (LE, m. ob.). The peak count at BOL was an excellent 167 on 26 Jul (MW).

Common Loon: A straggler in non-breeding plumage was at LSWNP, *Lancaster* 7 Jun (LE).

Double-crested Cormorant: Routine reports.

American White Pelican: Routine reports.

American Bittern: Routine reports.

Least Bittern: There were six reports of single birds only from *Lancaster, Butler, Saunders*, and *Fillmore* (m. ob.) and one was at CLNWR 4 Jun (SML); breeding may have occurred at any of these locations, but no evidence was obtained.

Great Blue Heron: A record late summer tally of 147 were at a wetland just west of Grand Island, *Hall* 22 Jul (CCh); true migration, or southward drift, occurs mostly in Oct.

Great Egret: Rare in the Panhandle, one was near Whitney, *Dawes* 21 Jun (KO); close to the Panhandle were singles in *Grant* 7 Jun (BE) and at LM, *Keith* 28 Jul (SMl).

Snowy Egret: The six at LM, *Keith* 28 Jul appeared to be post-breeding wanderers with residual plumes (SMl). The only other reports were of singles at two *Lancaster* locations 11 Jun and 14 Jun (RSt, LP, MUs, TBr).

Little Blue Heron: The only report was of an immature at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 27 Jul (EWi). Overall reports have declined.

Cattle Egret: Rare in the Panhandle, one was at Smith Lake, *Morrill* 5 Jul (TL, KMD). As with Little Blue Heron, reports of this species have declined; best count Jun-Jul was four, in *Hall* 5 Jun (RF).

Green Heron: Routine reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Routine reports.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The usual late summer dispersers were reported in the southeast, total about seven (m. ob.); northerly was an immature in *Dodge* 27 Jul (D&JP).

White-faced Ibis: Two at LaPlatte Bottoms, *Sarpy* 15 Jul (MSh) were early fall arrivals, possibly immature non-breeders.

Glossy x White-faced (hybrid) Ibis: The single report identified three with purple facial skin at Smith Lake, *Morrill* 5 Jul (TL, KMD, photos). Reports of hybrids are increasing along with reports of Glossy Ibis, to the extent that observers take time to identify them.

Turkey Vulture: Routine reports.

Osprey: Updates on nine nesting sites were received. Four nests in *Scotts Bluff* (Riverside, South Mitchell, Shannon-Berggren, and Winters Creek) each fledged three young and a fifth site, south of Morrill (Jirdon's), was inactive (D&JC, KD). The Sugar Factory nest in *Scotts Bluff* may have been removed; adults were still trying to establish a nest at the end of Aug (D&JC). The Keystone nest in *Keith* had two young about three weeks old 19 June (JGJ), both still present 12 Jul (CBa). A new nest near Keystone was established this spring and had three eggs by early Jun but was abandoned by the end of the period; power company personnel are erecting a nest pole there (fide JGJ). The OPPD Fort Calhoun, *Washington* nest had three young 23 Jun (CP) and two large chicks 22 Jul (SMa).

Golden Eagle: Routine reports.

Northern Harrier: One in *Lancaster* 31 Jul (EJ) may have suggested local breeding, although non-breeding immatures may occur anywhere during the breeding season.

Cooper's Hawk: Routine reports.

Bald Eagle: Fledged juveniles (hatch year) can appear as early as late Jun; early were two with older immatures in *Keith* 19 Jun (JGJ).

Mississippi Kite: Most exciting was the discovery of two nests in Scottsbluff, *Scotts Bluff,* the first since 2011. An adult was seen 1 Jul (TL) and the nests were found near each other 2 and 9 Jul; adults were feeding young at each nest 13 and 26 Jul (KD). A continuing nest being tended in Lincoln, *Lancaster* was destroyed by a windstorm in late Jun (DBa). Adults were reported at known recent breeding sites in Ogallala, *Keith* (m. ob.) although some favored trees there have been cut down (JO). In North Platte, *Lincoln,* kites were found with some regularity at an encouraging seven different locations, but no systematic nest search was undertaken (BE). Adults were seen over Hastings, *Adams* 2-14 Jun, as in several previous years, but no nests have been found there (PD). Other sightings were at locations where there have been previous sightings but no evidence of nesting; these are Benkelman, *Dundy* (SMl); McCook, *Red Willow* (WF); and Kearney, *Buffalo* (AF).

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were two reports of this rare southeastern species, one surprisingly as far north as *Dakota* 18 Jun (BFH, JPr), and the other in northeast *Douglas* 21 Jul (JT).

Broad-winged Hawk: Suggestive of breeding, one in *Cedar* east of Crofton 16 Jun was in the same area where a pair was located in Apr (MB).

Swainson's Hawk: One in *Nemaha* 11 Jul (SB) was a rare occurrence there in summer. The group of 21 in a field in *Scotts Bluff* 8 Jul were "one year old" birds (CCr), presumably non-breeders.

Red-tailed Hawk: Nestlings close to fledging in *Sioux* 21 Jun (DTh) were a bit late, and juveniles with adults in *Saunders* 5 Jul (LSu) were also a bit late for dependent young.

Ferruginous Hawk: Routine reports.

Barn Owl: Rare in the northeast, singles were at a former nest site in *Dixon* 12 Jun (JJ) and in *Keya Paha* 18 Jun (DTo).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Burrowing Owl: Sightings continued at Hultine WPA, *Clay* during Jun and Jul; up to 7 were present, those 25 Jul (MSh, PSh, m. ob.). A good count in the north was the 14, including 11 fledglings, in *Keya Paha* 27 Jul (JCo).

Barred Owl: Only the 5th report in the Niobrara River Valley for *Brown* and *Cherry* was one at Long Pine SRA, *Brown* 29 Jul (MKW). Another was westerly at Rowe Sanctuary, *Buffalo* 15 Jul (BN), perhaps closing the gap westward to the putative small population in *Lincoln*.

Long-eared Owl: None were reported of this uncommon statewide resident.

Short-eared Owl: Only about the 9th record of nesting since 1960 was a pair with four newly fledged young along Highway 385 northwest of Chadron, *Dawes* 28 Jun (MGo, DKi; photos). There were three other reports, all from potential northern Panhandle breeding areas, of singles at Ogallala National Grassland, *Sioux* 10 Jun (JM), Lone Tree Road, *Dawes* 30 Jun (WA), and County Road Z, *Scotts Bluff* 8 Jul (SMl).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: There was exciting news regarding breeding for this species also; a family group was at GB, *Sioux* 4 Jun, calls were heard, and a photo taken by another camper was seen to be conclusive (JCa). Elsewhere, one was calling at Wildcat Hills WMA, *Scotts Bluff* 5 Jun (SMl), a known breeding location.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: There were a few more reports than usual, all, as expected for summer, on the Pine Ridge. Perhaps a new location was near the top of Smiley Canyon Road in *Sioux*, where two were found 4 Jun and seen through 24 Jun (WM, m. ob.). The CSP area in *Dawes* has been a reliable location for many years; singles were at the park 21 Jun (TBo) and 14 Jul (MD), and at nearby Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, there were two on 14 Jul (RC). Encouraging were the four in a burn area near Joder in northeastern *Sioux* 6 Jul (WA); none were reported from the Sowbelly Canyon site.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Intriguing was the sighting of one in *Washington* 21 Jun (RR); breeding has not been reported in Nebraska, but there are two previous Missouri River Valley records late Jun-early Jul.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Routine reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: The second record for *Cedar* was of one north of Obert 27 Jun (EBr, MB). This is the 6th record for *Dakota, Dixon*, and *Cedar*; the first of these was in 2018.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Peregrine Falcon: Only the 11th Jun-early Jul record not related to eastern Nebraska residents was one in *Box Butte* 5 Jul (TL, KMD). The three active sites in Omaha, *Douglas* were all successful in fledging three or four young birds; the OPPD site in North Omaha fledged three young 10-18 Jun (JT), the Woodmen Tower box downtown fledged four young around 21 Jun (G&SE), and the Mutual of Omaha site also fledged four young (fide JGJ). Unfortunately, the Lincoln Capitol Building pair failed again for the 4th year in a row; these are old birds and perhaps one or both are infertile.

Prairie Falcon: Routine reports.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Routine report.

Western Wood-Pewee: Excellent counts were the 48 over four miles in Monroe Canyon, *Sioux* 4 Jun (JCa) and 33 in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 20 Jun (SMl). Reports in the Niobrara River Valley were of up to four east to the NVP, *Brown* and *Keya Paha* 8 Jun-11 Jul (CNK, DTo, JNi).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: A westerly bird at Rock Creek SRA, *Dundy* 9 Jun (TMe) was an apparent migrant.

Acadian Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Alder Flycatcher: One in *Douglas* 4 Jun (JL) was tardy.

Willow Flycatcher: One in *Scotts Bluff* 24 Jul (JNi) was probably a fall migrant.

Least Flycatcher: One in *Knox* 16 Jun (DSa) was well-described and another was recorded at Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton* 2 Jul (JTh). The very few summer records are essentially restricted to the north and west. Four reports elsewhere 24 Jun-12 Jul were unaccompanied by details.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: One in *Kimball* 5 Jun (SMl) was a late migrant.

Eastern Phoebe: Routine reports.

Say's Phoebe: Rare in the east, a surprising four were reported, all in the north and northeast, although without evidence of nesting: singles in *Keya Paha* 2 Jun (MB), at NVP, *Brown* 19 Jun (DTo), in *Cedar* 27 Jun (MB), and in *Knox* 18 Jul (CW).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Cassin's Kingbird: One easterly in *Dundy* 18 Jul (SMl) was an early fall wanderer or migrant.

Western Kingbird: Routine reports.

Eastern Kingbird: The 50 at BOL 18 Jul (MGe) was a good count for an early fall aggregation.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Nesting is annual in southeast Nebraska, although this summer only one nesting location was reported, in *Pawnee*, where a pair and a nest on a cell tower were noted 2 Jun (RSt); 1-4 adults were present through the period (m. ob.).

Loggerhead Shrike: A nest with seven eggs was found in *Sioux* 3 Jun (WM).

Bell's Vireo: An excellent tally of summering birds was the 36 at Rock Creek SRA, *Dundy* 18 Jul (SMl).

Yellow-throated Vireo: One at NVP, *Keya Paha* 17 Jun (DTo) was westerly in the Niobrara River Valley.

Blue-headed Vireo: The only report was of a tardy migrant in *Pawnee* 1 Jun (PR).

Plumbeous Vireo: There appears to be an establishing population in recent years in the Wildcat Hills, *Scotts Bluff*, although nesting has not yet been noted; eight were in Carter Canyon 16 Jun (SMl), and up to four were elsewhere in the Wildcat Hills 5 Jun-24 Jul (m. ob.).

Philadelphia Vireo: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 1-4 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: The western subspecies *Vireo gilvus brewsteri* was reported as expected from the Pine Ridge, but a surprise was one in treeless habitat at the junction of Highways 71 and 88 in *Banner* 4 Jul (TL, KMD), apparently the first away from the Pine Ridge in the breeding season and presumably an early fall wanderer.

Red-eyed Vireo: The 20 at Ponderosa WMA, *Dawes* 20 Jun (SMl) was a good summer count.

Pinyon Jay: The only reports of this enigmatic species in summer in Nebraska were of 12 in Smiley Canyon, *Sioux* 4 Jun (WM) and three there 7 Jun (KD).

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Black-billed Magpie: One at Calamus Reservoir, *Loup* 24 Jun (SB) was only the 6th record there since 1988, none of more than two birds, and first since Mar 2018. Edge of range reports from *Banner* included singles in Long Canyon 6 Jul (KMD) and at Buffalo Creek Pond 8 Jul (SMl, CC). Encouraging were the two flocks totaling 12 "noisy short-tailed juveniles" along Spotted Tail Road, *Dawes* 22 Jun (TMe).

American Crow: Flocking begins in late Jul; a flock of 40 was at Fort Robinson SP, *Dawes* 26 Jul (PDo).

Horned Lark: The 70 in a mile in *Box Butte* 5 Jul (KMD, TL) may have been indicative of fall grouping, which begins early in this species. Breeders in the Panhandle are of the "Western Pale Group", subspecies *Eremophila alpestris enthymia*; as expected, reports identified to this subspecies were from *Kimball* (KR) and *Banner* (MGo, DKi).

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Tree Swallow: Routine reports.

Violet-green Swallow: The first known breeding record for *Sheridan*, and easternmost for the Pine Ridge was of a pair "nesting in a tiny crack in cliff wall" 24 Jun (TMe); the location is in Strawberry Canyon, on private property about 20 miles northeast of CSP and about four miles east of the *Dawes* line. Even in Dawes breeding records are few.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Routine reports.

Purple Martin: A colony in Benkelman, *Dundy* is flourishing; 70 were counted there 18 Jul (SMl) and the homeowner counts 200-300 at dusk (fide SMl). At Valentine, *Cherry*, three were at both Fort Niobrara NWR and Valentine Fish Hatchery 4-5 Jul (BG).

Barn Swallow: Routine reports.

Cliff Swallow: A large colony of some 560 birds was at the Oshkosh North Platte River bridge, *Garden* 4 Jun (SMl).

Black-capped Chickadee: One near Hemingford, *Box Butte* 23 Jun (DTh) was in a small riparian patch but within the Niobrara River watershed.

Tufted Titmouse: Numbers continue to be spotty; one at a Bellevue, *Sarpy* feeder 6 Jul was the first there for more than a year (AR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Breeding at a new location was evidenced by an adult and a "less-coordinated" dependent fledgling in Norfolk, *Madison* 19-20 Jun (DH). One in *Wayne* 3 Jun (EBr) was probably a tardy migrant. One was out of place near Pine Bluffs, *Kimball* 27 Jun (JNi).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Brown Creeper: Very low numbers breed at FF; one was seen there 15 Jun (EBu).

Rock Wren: Routine reports.

House Wren: Abundance at Rock Creek SRA, *Dundy* was indicated by the record high Jun-Jul count of 97 there 18 Jul, including many family groups (SMl).

Sedge Wren: In recent years there has been a startling increase in May-Jun reports at a time of year when settled birds were unusual and there were very few nesting records. Although no nesting was documented this year during that period, there were about 35 reports from six locations in the southeast in *Saunders, Lancaster, Douglas,* and *Gage* Cos with best counts 6-7 birds (m. ob.), compared to a total of 35 such records in the entire 2009-2018 period. Even in the northeast, May-Jun records of settled birds were rare; this spring there were five reports in *Dakota* 15-23 Jun (BFH, JPr). One in *Keith* 1 Jul (JWa), likely an early migrant, was westerly.

Marsh Wren: Routine reports.

Carolina Wren: Outliers suggestive of fall wandering were two at LM, *Keith* 1 Jul (JWa), one in *Hall* 29 Jul (SM), and at least two within three miles of each other north and west of Obert, *Cedar* 28 Jun (MB, BFH, EBr) and 18 Jul (LR, RH). One was out of expected breeding season range in Norfolk, *Madison* 26 Jun, likely the same bird singing there 2 Jun (WF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Routine reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: None were reported; expected last dates of departure in the northwest are 3-4 Jun.

Eastern Bluebird: Routine reports.

Mountain Bluebird: Routine reports.

Veery: A tardy bird was in *Burt* 4 Jun (PT).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: None were reported; expected last dates of spring migrants are 4-6 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: Latest on record for spring in the southeast was one photographed in Lincoln, *Lancaster* 19-22 Jun (M&CV).

Hermit Thrush: None were reported; last expected dates of spring departure are 3-4 Jun in the northwest.

Wood Thrush: Routine reports.

American Robin: An excellent early fall flock was the 185 in *Madison* 25 Jul (JTh).

Gray Catbird: The 24 at FF 6 Jun (DC) was an excellent tally for the date.

Brown Thrasher: Routine reports.

Sage Thrasher: The only report was of one near Exit 1 on I-80, *Kimball* 25 Jun (RSt photo), at this date likely breeding.

Northern Mockingbird: One near Brownlee, *Cherry* 27 Jun (JED) was northerly.

Eurasian Starling: The 250 at Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton* 11 Jun (WF) was a large early flock.

Cedar Waxwing: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

House Finch: Routine reports.

Red Crossbill: There were two reports of nesting. Adults were feeding fledglings in *Dawes* 7 Jun (CNK), and adults were feeding fledglings at a feeder in Valentine, *Cherry* 13 Jul (GW). The latter is one of about seven breeding records away from the Pine Ridge. Good numbers of adults and juveniles (KD) persisted at WHNC, *Sioux* through 22 Jun, estimated at 100-101 on three dates (m. ob.); it was said that Red Crossbills were "invading towns south and east of the Black Hills in numbers" (NP).

Pine Siskin: A surprise was breeding in Omaha, *Douglas*, where two begging juveniles accompanied adults to feeders; siskins had been present since mid-Jan, adults were last seen 14 Jun, and juveniles lingered until 24 Jun (J&RH). Large numbers frequented WHNC, best estimate 100 there 5 Jun (SMl, JNi), but only 11 were present 18 Jun (JGJ).

Lesser Goldfinch: There were numerous reports during the period throughout the western Panhandle, but, typically, no evidence of breeding was noted; there are only about four documented breeding records. The northward expansion was noted by a Chadron, *Dawes* observer on 1 Jul: "I see as many Lesser Goldfinches as I do American Goldfinches" (JH fide JGJ).

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: The small population a few miles northeast of O'Neill, *Holt* persists; one was there 3 Jun and two on 6 Jul (MB, EBr). One was at another outpost, in *Keya Paha* 8 Jun (CNK) and three were on Lost Creek Road, *Keya Paha* 27 Jun (JCo). The 39 south of Harrison, *Sioux* 14 Jun (TMe) was a good count.

Thick-billed Longspur (previously known as McCown's Longspur): Routine reports.

Cassin's Sparrow: Reports were more numerous than usual, although from known breeding areas. Best counts were the 16 near Exit 1 on I-80, *Kimball* 13 Jun (PB, KH), 11 near Haigler, *Dundy* 11 Jun (TMe), and nine southwest of Alliance in *Morrill* 13 Jun (TMe). Northernmost were 1-2 along Morrill Road near Agate, *Sioux* 13 Jun (TMe); there were two other reports from *Sioux*, of three along Henry Road 2 Jul (KMD, TL) and 1-3 near Henry Road 15-16 Jun (TMe). One was west of Alliance, *Box Butte* 5 Jul (KMD, TL).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Reports indicated the abundance of this species in central and western grasslands; best count was the 41 in *Hall* 21 Jul (AY, LSt).

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Somewhat east of the expected summer range were singles at Swan Lake, *Holt* 20 Jun (J&LS) and Victoria Springs SRA, *Custer* 13 Jun (J&LS).

Chipping Sparrow: Routine reports.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Breeding has not been confirmed in Nebraska; only about the 6th summer report, all in the north, was one recorded 12 Jun in *Cedar* (EBr).

Field Sparrow: A good tally was the 25 in the NVP, *Brown* 19 Jun (DTo). Rare in the Panhandle, one in southeastern *Garden* 4 Jun (SMl) may have been a tardy migrant, but another in the same area 28 Jul (SMl) suggest summering there. A surprise was one singing at GB, *Sioux* 23 Jun (MGo), one of only six Pine Ridge records.

Brewer's Sparrow: Best count was the nine west of Harrison, *Sioux* 20 Jun (SMl).

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: Routine reports.

White-crowned Sparrow: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 2-3 Jun.
Harris's Sparrow: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 9-10 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 1-2 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: Routine reports.
Henslow's Sparrow: Apparently northernmost on record was one near the intersection of 517 Ave and 892 Road near Pishelville, *Knox* 29-30 Jul (JTh, MB, EBr, LBr; recording). Not quite as surprising, but a good find was one north of LeShara, *Saunders* 17 Jun (SMa), the result of a search of similar habitat to Tim Knott Prairie (see next). A new summering location is Tim Knott Tallgrass Prairie Preserve owned by Wachiska Audubon near Yutan, *Saunders*; up to four Henslow's were present 16 Jun-3 Jul (NR, m. ob.).
Savannah Sparrow: Rare and local in summer, mostly in the Panhandle, two in southeastern *Garden* 28 Jul (SMl) may have been local breeders or early migrants.
Song Sparrow: Low numbers continue at westerly outposts in the Pine Ridge and Scotts Bluff; singles on the Pine Ridge were near Chadron, *Dawes* 28 Jun (DKi, MGo) and at CSP, *Dawes* 18 Jun (SD, JMa), and in *Scotts Bluff* at Carter Canyon 5 Jun (SMl), and WHNC 22 Jun (RSt).
Swamp Sparrow: Reports of this low-density, often overlooked cattail marsh specialist were from locations in the northeast in *Knox, Antelope, Boone, Madison*, and *Stanton*, southeastern in *Garden*, and in *Lincoln* and *Dawson* (m. ob.). Best count was the eight at Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton* 18 Jul (JTh).
Green-tailed Towhee: None were reported; last expected dates of spring migrants are 4-7 Jun.
Spotted Towhee: Easterly for the dates were one at Tim Knott Prairie, *Saunders* 18 Jun (EWi) and two at Whitetail Run Golf Course, *Saunders* 20 Jul (TK); intriguingly, both were in open rather than woodland habitats, a possible adaptive influence at edge of range in this and Eastern Towhee. See https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/spotted-towhee/.
Eastern Towhee: One singing a typical song was westerly at NNF Bessey, *Thomas* 5 Jul (BE), where two were present Jun 2019. This far west, fewer than 10% of *Pipilo* towhees are unspotted.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Adding to the slowly increasing number of eastern reports was one at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 4-19 Jun (RSt, m. ob.). Although recent eastern reports are of unknown subspecies, it is assumed that they are eastern *Icteria virens virens*; one was far west near Oshkosh, *Garden* 4 Jun (SMl). An excellent count was the 26 in Carter Canyon, *Scotts Bluff* 16 Jun (SMl).
Yellow-headed Blackbird: Routine reports.
Bobolink: Good habitat along Beaver Valley Road, *Boone* was indicated by the 47 in fields there 28 Jun (SMa). Rare in the Panhandle, westerly was one near Agate, *Sioux* 29 Jun (EA), and singles were in *Dawes* at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA 22 Jun (DTh) and on Spotted Tail Road the same day (TMe).
Eastern Meadowlark: A surprising seven records in the Niobrara River Valley east of *Cherry* and the Missouri River Valley between Niobrara and Sioux City, were fully half the known records in this area, and suggest increasing numbers there. This summer's reports were from *Keya Paha* 2 Jul (CTK), *Rock* 29 Jul (MKW), three in the Wynot area, *Cedar* 26-27 Jun (PR, MB,

EBr), Buckskin Hills WMA, *Dixon* 12 Jun (JPr, EBr, BFH), and near Ponca, *Dixon* 21 Jun (CG).

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: A spectacular tally of 116 was at Rock Creek SRA, *Dundy* 18 Jul, a mix of small migrant groups of 10-15 and local breeders carrying food (SMl).

Bullock's Oriole: Routine reports.

Baltimore Oriole: Rare in the Panhandle, singles were near Joder, *Sioux* 20 Jun (SMl) and at CSP, *Dawes* 23 Jul (TK).

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Brewer's Blackbird: Reports in Jul a bit east of the summer range are probably post-breeding wanderers; three were near Ellsworth, *Sheridan* 26 Jul (DTh) and two in central *Morrill* 5 Jul (TL, KMD). One at Valentine NWR, *Cherry* 13 Jun (CK) was a late migrant.

Common Grackle: Fall flocking is early in this species; 590 were at Snake Creek Marsh, *Box Butte* 3 Jul (TL, KMD).

Great-tailed Grackle: Routine reports.

Ovenbird: Beginning in 2014 there have been reports of up to 11 each summer at NNF Bessey, *Thomas*, but without breeding evidence; this summer 1-2 were at three locations there 2 Jun-12 Jul (DSa, JBa), but still without breeding evidence. One in *Jefferson* 6 Jul (MH) was outside the breeding range, and likely an early fall disperser.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Routine reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: Intriguing were two acting territorially in *Cass* 26 Jul (NM); breeding has not been observed in the Missouri River Valley for over 50 years. One in *Lancaster* 31 Jul (M&CV) was a surprisingly early fall migrant. One was at Mulberry Bend, *Dixon* 17 Jun (DSa) and 1-2 were at PSP 11-18 Jun (DSa, DTo). Breeding has not been proven at PSP or elsewhere in the northeast.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported of this rare southeastern breeder.

Tennessee Warbler: Late and westerly was one singing in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 6 Jun (JNi, photo).

Orange-crowned Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 1-3 Jun.

Connecticut Warbler: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 1-2 Jun.

MacGillivray's Warbler: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 4-8 Jun.

Mourning Warbler: One was tardy at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 1 Jun (PR, photo).

Kentucky Warbler: Routine reports.

Common Yellowthroat: The 34 in southeastern *Garden* 28 Jul (SMl) was a good tally.

Hooded Warbler: The only report was of one recorded at ICSP, *Nemaha* 14 Jun (JE), about the 6th record for Jun.

American Redstart: The 34 at ICSP 12 Jul (SB) was a good count. Late were two females at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 12 Jun (LE), and early for fall were singles at Rock Creek SRA, *Dundy* 18 Jul (SMl) and near Ravenna, *Buffalo* 16 Jul (WF).

Northern Parula: One was westerly in Kearney, *Buffalo* 1 Jun (RH).

Magnolia Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 1-4 Jun.

Yellow Warbler: The 40 at Fort Kearny, *Buffalo* 21 Jun (LR, RH) was a good count.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A major surprise was a late female at GB, *Sioux* 21-23 Jun (KO, DKi, MGo, photos), latest on record by four days.

Blackpoll Warbler: None were reported; expected last spring dates are 7-8 Jun.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: There are now at least 16 reports Jun-Jul from the Wildcat Hills in *Scotts Bluff*, seven of these this summer 5 Jun-3 Jul (m. ob.), but breeding there has not yet been proven.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Strangely rare at ICSP, one in *Nemaha* 13 Jun (JE) was only the 3rd Jun-Jul record from the park. A belated northerly report was of one seen and documented near Sparks, *Cherry* 1 Jun 2019 by a Bird Conservancy of the Rockies surveyor (MSm), one of a surprising 39 records in central Nebraska.

Prairie Warbler: Rare anywhere in the state, although with records statewide, one at Oliver Reservoir SRA, *Kimball* 5 Jun (SMl, photo) was 20th for the state.

Black-throated Green Warbler: None were reported; last expected dates for spring are 1-2 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: None were reported; last expected spring dates are 7-8 Jun.

Summer Tanager: Wanderers statewide are mostly splotchy red/orange immature males, but an apparent adult male was a surprise at Enders Reservoir, *Chase* 18 Jul (SMl). An immature male was at Valentine NWR, *Cherry* 9 Jun (AE).

Scarlet Tanager: One at Meridian WMA, *Thayer* 28 Jul was an adult male (WF), presumably on the move after the breeding season.

Western Tanager: Good tallies were the eight at GB 4 Jun (JCa) and seven near Fort Robinson SHP, *Sioux* 21 Jun (TMe). One at CLNWR, *Garden* 4 Jun (SMl) was a tardy migrant.

Northern Cardinal: There are about 25 Pine Ridge records, most recent; this summer the only report was of one at Chadron, *Dawes* 19 Jul (DM, JMo).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Black-headed Grosbeak: The 14 at GB, *Sioux* 4 Jun (JCa) was a good count, likely a mix of local breeders and migrants.

Blue Grosbeak: The 21 at Rock Creek SRA, *Dundy* 18 Jul (SMl) was a good late summer tally.

Lazuli Bunting: Record spring-summer counts were in Carter Canyon, *Scotts Bluff*: 19 on 5 Jun and 18 on 16 Jun (SMl). An introgressant with Indigo Bunting with blue-mottled white underparts was easterly in *Douglas* 13 Jul (NR, photo).

Indigo Bunting: The 23 at ICSP 12 Jul (SB) was a good summer tally.

Dickcissel: Numbers were high in general, with numerous reports west into the Panhandle; good totals were estimates of 100 at SCP, *Lancaster* 6 Jun (MSh), BOL, *Lancaster* 18 Jul (MGe) and Kissinger Basin WMA, *Clay* 25 Jul (MSh, PSh). In the north, the 79 near Brownlee, *Cherry* 27 Jun (JED) was a good tally, and as far northwest as the Joder area, *Sioux,* two were seen near the High Plains Cook Shack (WM).

Robert Wolcott and the Art of Nest Records

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The autumn of 1894 was fortuitous for Nebraska ornithology because it is when Robert Henry Wolcott accepted an assistantship at the University of Nebraska, moving to Lincoln from the University of Michigan (Swenk 1935). Wolcott, from that point onward, made significant contributions to our knowledge of Nebraska birds (Bruner et al. 1903, Wolcott 1909, 1919), was a founding member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU), and was editor for the first three Proceedings of the NOU from 1899-1902. His work expanded beyond local focus and he eventually authored a text on animal biology (Wolcott 1933).

The topic of this paper, however, is not Robert Wolcott's talent for writing and editing, but his ability to make drawings. Museums never discard original information pertaining to an object, since it may help answer future questions. One such set of original information in the Zoology Division of the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM) is the hand-written bird nest and egg cards completed by the collectors at the time of collection in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Zoology Division currently holds approximately 1,450 egg sets and 50 nests and is notable among museum institutions (Kiff and Hough 1985). The collecting of nests and eggs was popular in the 1800s and early 1900s until it became illegal in 1918 with passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and subsequent legislation. Very little egg and nest collecting has occurred since that time, and that has been under strictly regulated permit situations.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and isolation I scanned the original nest and egg cards associated with the museum collections. I was surprised to find how many of Robert Wolcott's collection cards, from both Michigan and Nebraska in the 1890s, had miniature drawings of the nest (Figures 2, 3, 8), nest site (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 10), or location maps (Figures 7, 9). No other collectors were noted to have made drawings on the cards in the UNSM collections. While data from these cards has been available to researchers for many years I thought it appropriate to bring some of these images to light for modern audiences to see 120+ years later.

Based on UNSM records, Robert Wolcott contributed 157 egg sets to the collections and an additional 16 study skins. Shown here (Figures 1-10) are some of the more than twenty egg cards upon which Wolcott made some sort of drawing about the nesting situation. Images are shown in chronological order based on collecting

date. Each image is on a 3x5" nest card that was glued to a 4x6" index card with the permanent UNSM catalog (ZM-) number in the upper right. The upper left number is the American Ornithologists' Union species number and a letter designating this egg set's place in the UNSM collection in association with that number. The original images are in color and depict paper discoloration, staining, or other defects. Using image processing software the color scans were altered to a black and white image for use herein and no other alteration was made to any original markings done by Wolcott. These cards are held in the Zoology Division. The modern common and scientific names are represented in figure captions.

Acknowledgements:

The University of Nebraska State Museum allowed use of these images and has been the conscientious caretaker of these documents for over a century. Elliot Zahm, University of Nebraska - Lincoln student, assisted in early attempts to scan and sort the egg and nest cards.

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Wolcott RH. 1919. Nebraska's game resources and their conservation. The Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey, Bulletin #12. University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 32 pp.

Wolcott RH. 1933. Animal biology. McGraw-Hill, New York and London, 719 pp.

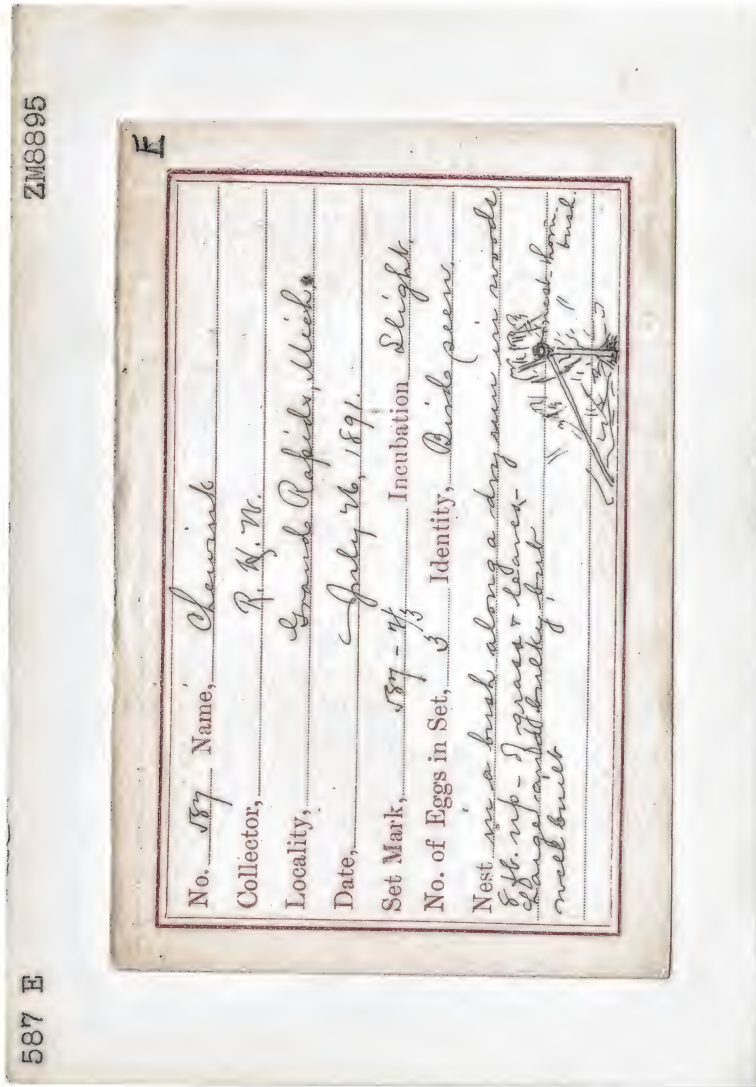
ZM8895
587 E
No. 187 Name, Chewink
Collector, R. H. W.
Locality, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Date, July 26, 1891.
Set Mark, 187 - 1/3 Incubation Slight
No. of Eggs in Set, 3 Identity, Birds eggs
Nest in a bush along a clay bank near creek
Eggs rich - 1 green + 2 brown-
Large and dark blotchy, shell
rough brick

Figure 1. Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). "Chewink" is an antiquated common name for Rufous-sided Towhee, later divided into Eastern and Spotted Towhees.

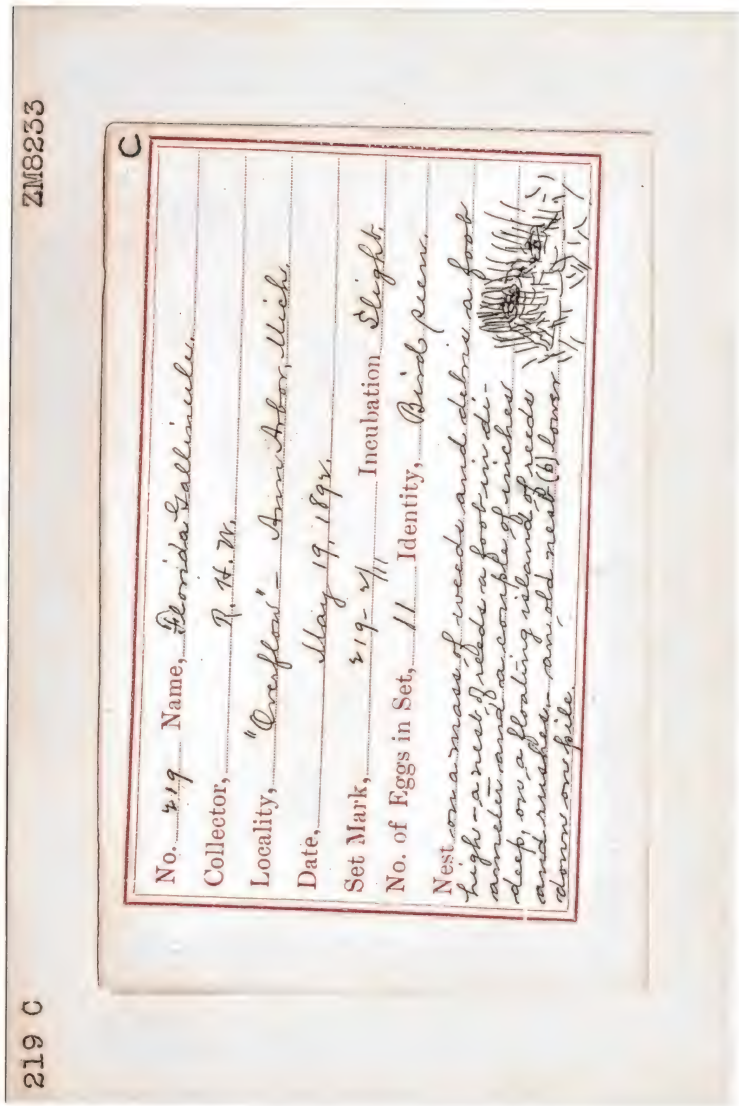

Figure 2. Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*). "Florida Gallinule" could refer to Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus)* but confusion among common names in the absence of scientific names is resolved with Wolcott's use of the AOU number. AOU 219 referred to Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), recently divided with the North American species becoming the Common Gallinule.

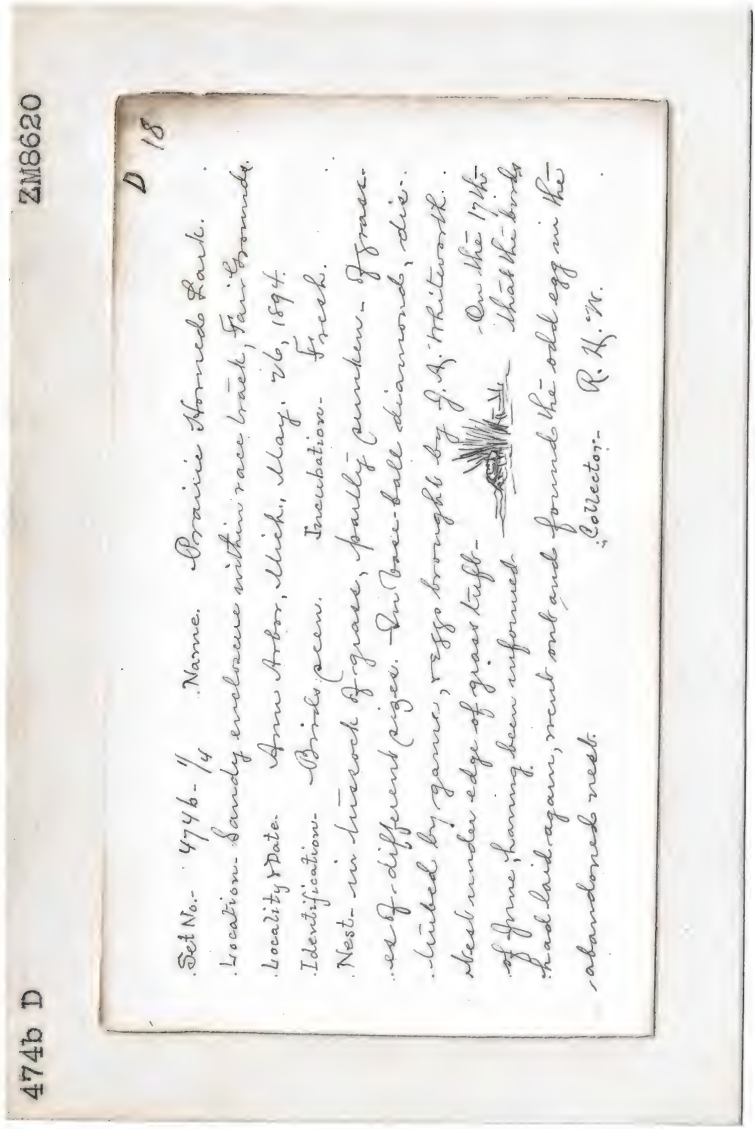
4746 D
ZM8620
D 18
Set No.- 4746-1/4 Name. Prairie Horned Lark.
Locality- Sandy embankment within race track, Fair Grounds.
Locality Date- Ann Arbor, Mich., May. 26, 1894.
Identification- Bird seen. Incubation- Fresh.
Nest- in hillside of gravel, sandy- gravel- different sizes. Built by grass, rather large by 2 1/2 inches. Nest under edge of grass tuft- On the 17th of June, having been informed that the birds had laid again, nest and found the added egg in the abandoned nest.
Collector:- R. H. W.

Figure 3. Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). "Prairie Horned Lark" usually refers to *E. a. praticola*, the subspecies breeding in the region.

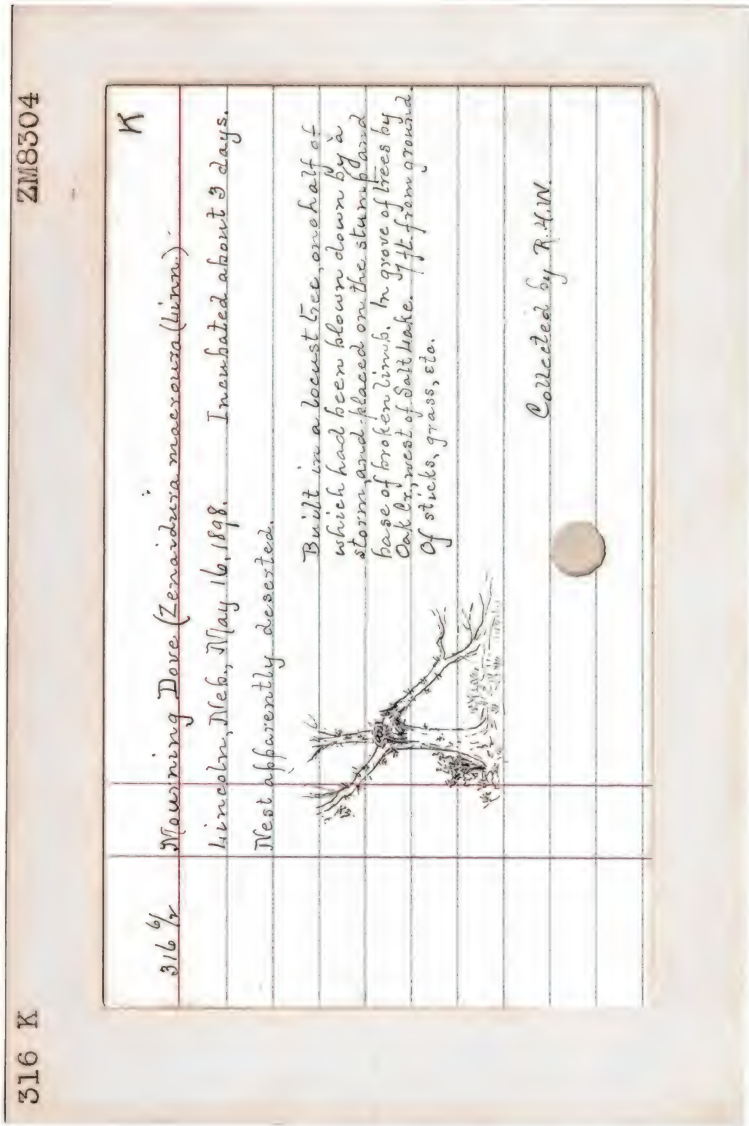
316 K
ZM8304
316 K
Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura (Linn.)
Lincoln, Neb., May 16, 1898. Incubated about 3 days.
Nest apparently deserted.
Built in a locust tree, one half of which had been blown down by a storm and placed on the stump and base of broken limbs. In grove of trees by Oak by, west of Salt Lake. 7 ft. from ground. Of sticks, grass, etc.
Collected by R.H.W.

Figure 4. Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*). The "Linn." after the scientific name refers to Carl Linnaeus, who in 1758 in Sweden published *Systema Naturae* which introduced the binomial nomenclatural system standardizing the naming of organisms worldwide. This species was one of the original names applied by Linnaeus himself.

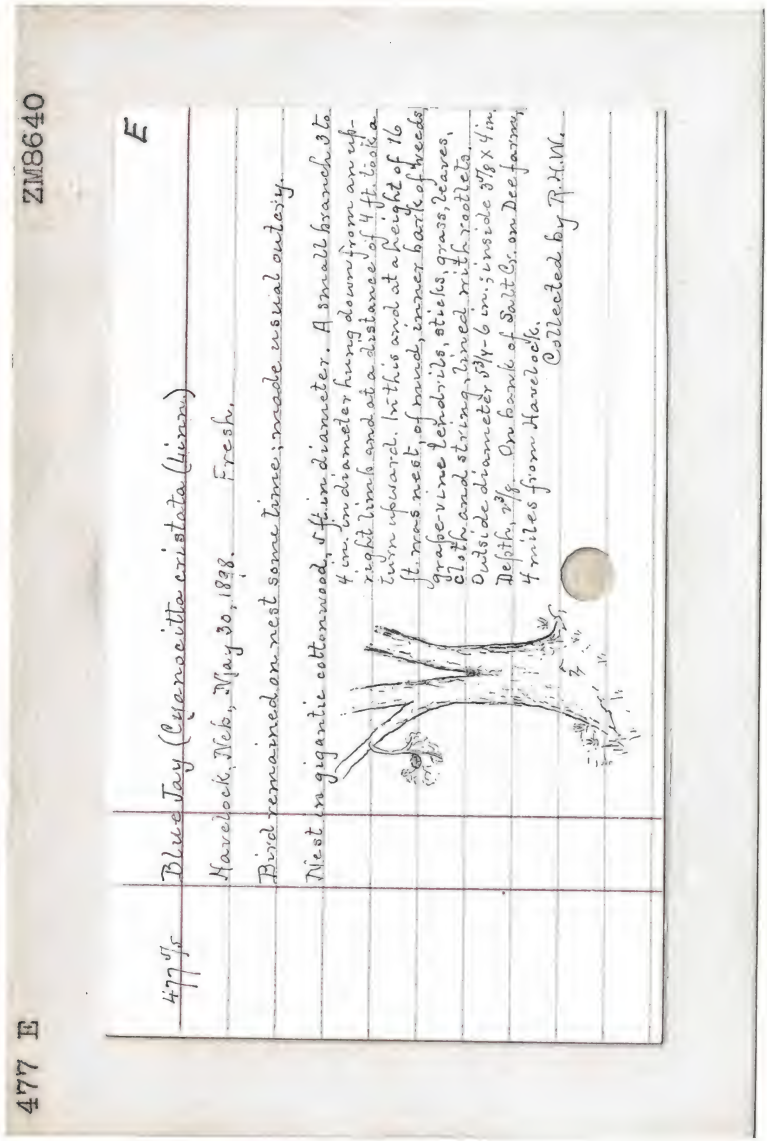
ZM8640
E
477 E
477 E
Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata (Linn.)
Havelock, Neb., May 30, 1898. Fresh.
Bird remained on nest some time; made usual outcry.
Nest in gigantic cottonwood, 45 ft. in diameter. A small branch 3 to 4 in. in diameter hung down from an upright limb and at a distance of 4 ft. took a turn upward. Within and at a height of 16 ft. was nest, of sound, inner bark of weeds, grape-vine leaves, stalks, stems, grass, leaves, cloth, and string, lined with rootlets. Outside diameter 6 3/4-6 in.; inside 3 3/8 x 4 in. Depths, 2 3/8. On bank of Salt Cr. on Dee farm, 4 miles from Havelock.
Collected by R.H.W.

Figure 5. Blue Jay (*Cyanositta cristata*). Images of a Lancaster County 1903 plat book at the Library of Congress show three "Dee" farms adjacent to one another and Salt Creek. Anna, John, and Maurice Dee properties can be described as 1 mi NW of the Waverly I-80 interchange (SE quarter Section 23 and SW quarter Section 24).

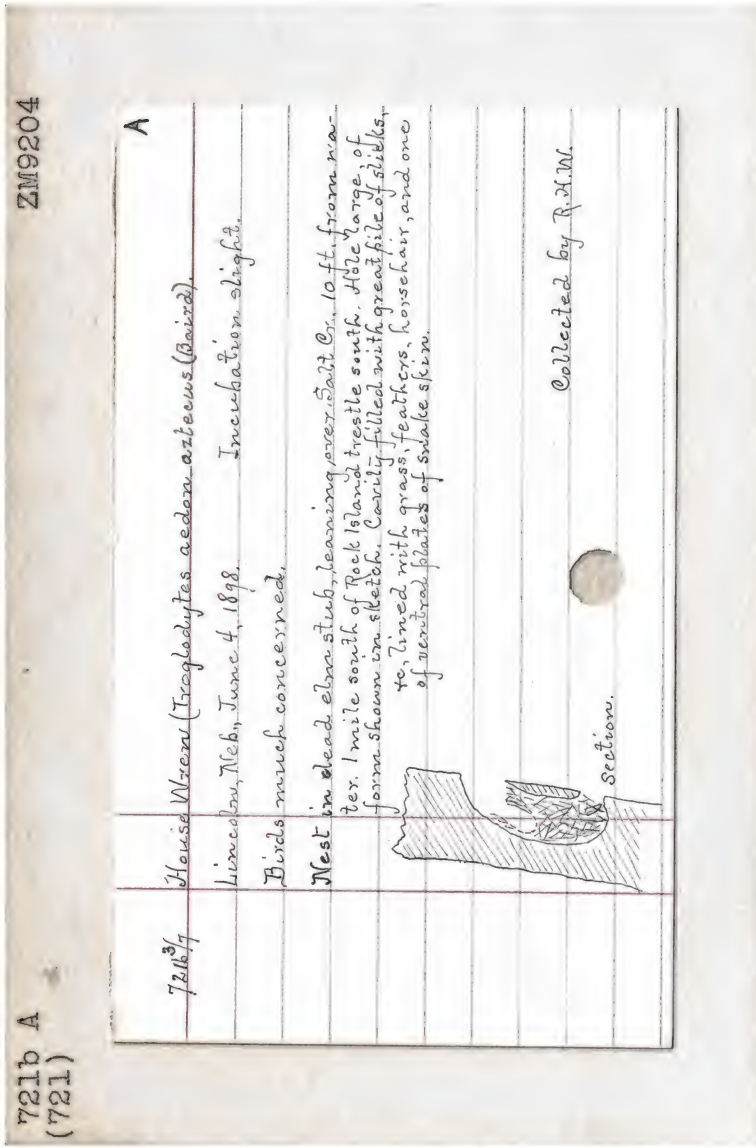
7216 A
(721)
ZM9204
A
7216 3/7
House Wren (Troglodytes aedon aztecus (Baird).
Lincoln, Neb., June 4, 1898. Incubation slight.
Birds much concerned.
Nest in dead elm stub, leaning over Salt Cr., 10 ft. from water. 1 mile south of Rock Island trestle south. Hole large; of form shown in sketch. Cavity filled with great pile of sticks, to, lined with grass, feathers, horsehair, and one of several plates of snake skin.
Collected by R.H.W.
Section.

Figure 6. House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). One mile south of the Rock Island trestle along Salt Creek would currently put this location in Wilderness Park at approximately where Yankee Hill Road would intersect, southwest of Lincoln, Lancaster County.

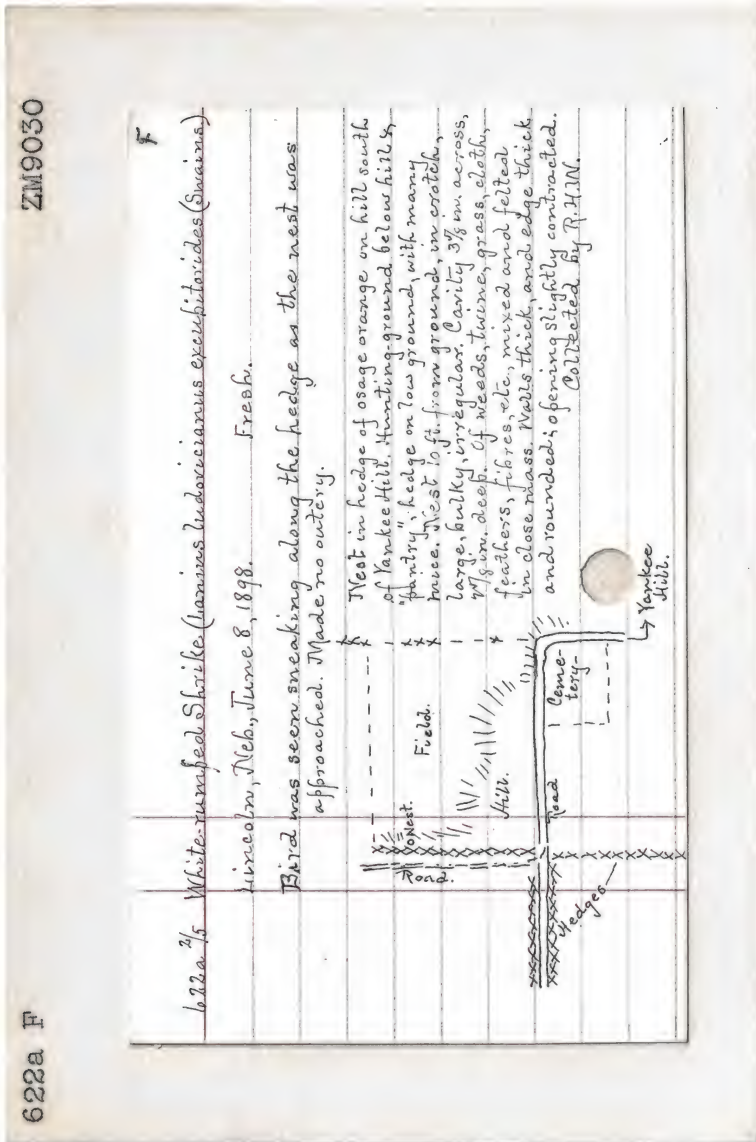
622a F
ZM9030
F
622a 3/5 White-rumped Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides (Swains.)
Lincoln, Neb., June 8, 1898. Fresh.
Bird was seen sneaking along the hedge as the nest was approached. Made no outcry.
Nest in hedge of osage orange on hill south of Yankee Hill. Hunting ground below hill & "pantry," hedge on low ground, with many holes. Nest 10 ft. from ground, in crotch, large, bulky, irregular. Cavity 3½ in across, 1½ in. deep. Of weeds, twine, grass, cloth, feathers, fibres, etc, mixed and felted in close mass. Walls thick, and edge thick and rounded; opening slightly contracted.
Collected by R.H.W.
Hedge
Road
Cemetery
Yankee Hill.
Forest
Road.
Field.
Hill.

Figure 7. Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). White-rumped Shrike *L.l. excubitorides* refers to the subspecies commonly found in Nebraska. The cemetery on the map is likely the Yankee Hill Cemetery just southwest of Lincoln, Lancaster County.

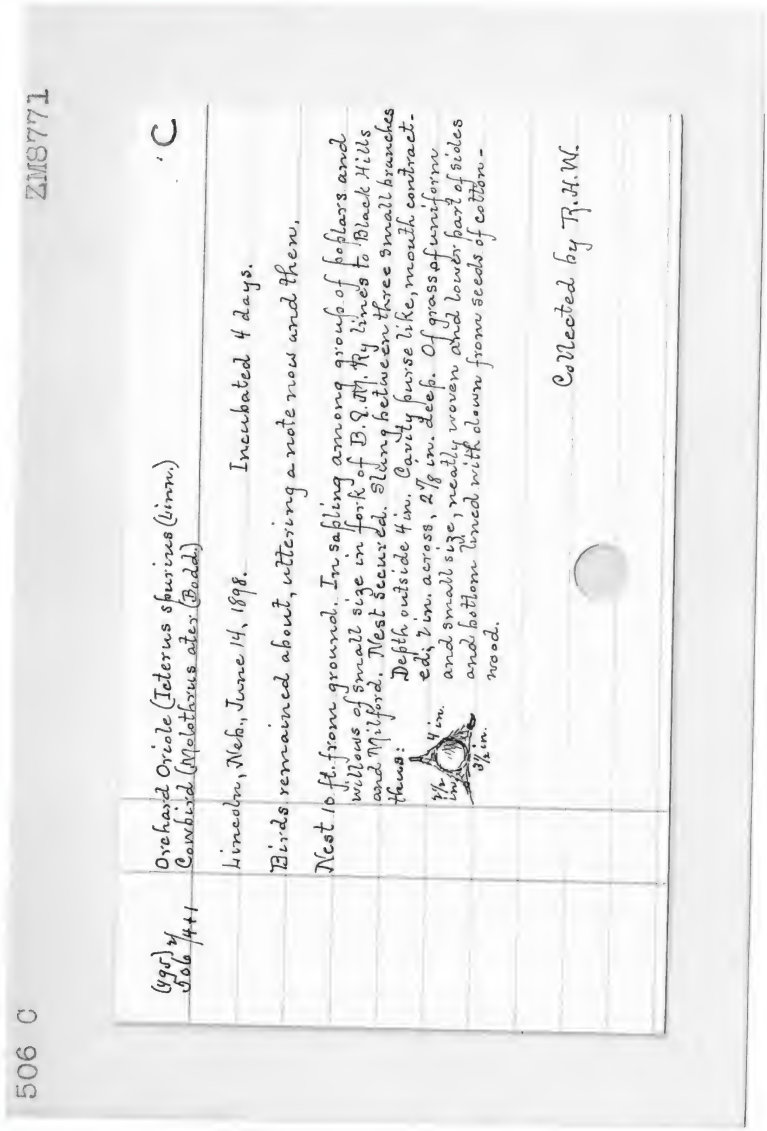
ZM8771
506 C
(1901) 4
506 / 441
Orchard Oriole (Icterus spurius (Linn.)
Cowbird (Molothrus ater (Bodd.)
C
Lincoln, Neb., June 14, 1898. Incubated 4 days.
Birds remained about, uttering a note now and then,
Nest 10 ft. from ground. In sapling among growth of poplars and
willows of small size in fork of B.& M. Ry lines to Black Hills
and Milford. Nest deserted. Along between three small branches
Depth outside 4 in. Cavity purse like, mouth contract-
ed, 2 in. across, 2 in. deep. Of grass of uniform
and small size, neatly woven and lower part of sides
and bottom lined with down from seeds of cotton-
wood.
4 in.
1¼ in.
3¼ in.
Collected by R.H.W.

Figure 8. Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Cowbird eggs were collected along with host eggs. Some museums apply a unique identifier to the cowbird eggs to separate them from the host species.

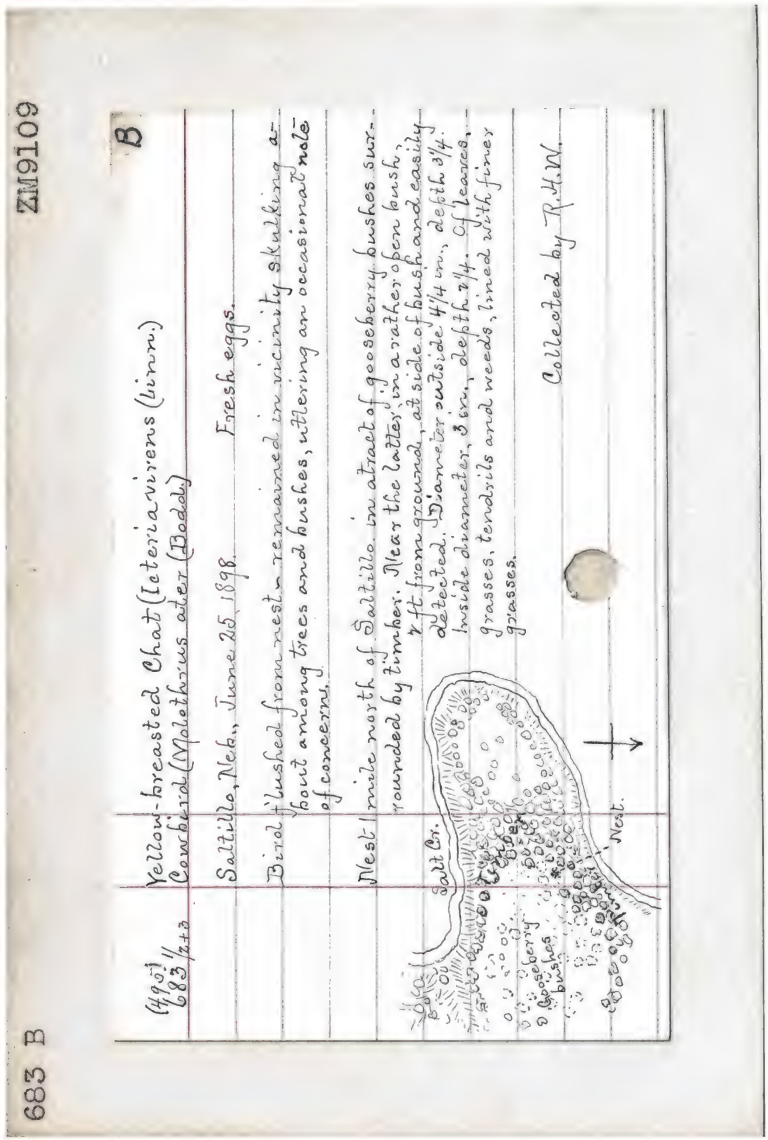
ZM9109
683 B
B
(490) 11
683 1/2+3
Yellow-breasted Chat (Icteria virens (Vieill.))
Cowbird (Molothrus ater (Boddy))
Saltillo, Neb., June 20, 1898. Fresh eggs.
Bird flushed from nest & remained in vicinity skulking about among trees and bushes, uttering an occasional note of concern.
Nest 1 mile north of Saltillo in attact of gooseberry bushes surrounded by timber. Near the latter, in a rather open bush, 2 ft. from ground, at side of bush and easily detected. Diameter outside 4 1/4 in., depth 3 1/4. Inside diameter, 3 in., depth 1 3/4. Of leaves, grasses, tendrils and weeds, lined with finer grasses.
Collected by R.H.W.
Salt Cr.
Gooseberry bushes
Nest.

Figure 9. Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). One mile north of Saltillo along Salt Creek would today be in Wilderness Park south of Lincoln, Lancaster County.

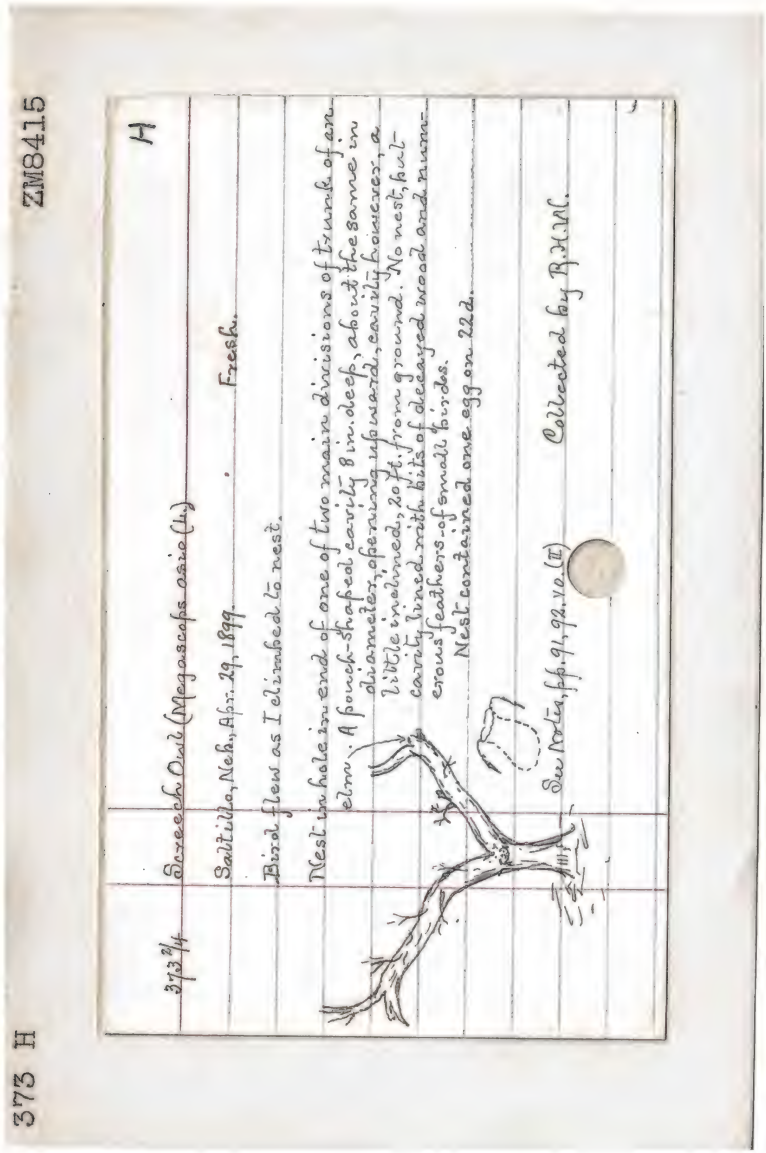
ZM8415
373 H
373 3/4
Screech Owl (Megascops asio) (H.)
Saltillo, Neb., Apr. 29, 1899.
Fresh.
Bird flew as I climbed to nest.
Nest in hole in end of one of two main divisions of trunk of an elm. A pouch-shaped cavity 8 in. deep, about the same in diameter, opening upward, cavity bowl-shaped, a little widened, 20 ft. from ground. No nest, but cavity lined with bits of decayed wood and numerous feathers of small birds.
Nest contained one egg on 22d.
See Nests, pp. 91, 92. no. (II)
Collected by R.H.M.

Figure 10. Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). Saltillo was railroad stop near the south end of what is now Wilderness Park, Lincoln, Lancaster County.

2019 (31st) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Mark A. Brogie - NOU Records Committee Chairperson
508 Seeley Street
Creighton, Nebraska 68729

The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) are described in its bylaws (NOURC 2010). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. Species for which the NOURC seeks documentation (NOURC Review List) can be found at the NOU website www.NOUbirds.org.

Starting in 2020, the NOURC will deal mainly with those species deemed as Accidental on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska". Casual species and out-of-range species will continue to be summarized in the "Seasonal Reports" of the Nebraska Bird Review and will be evaluated by Nebraska eBird reviewers (if submitted on that platform).

All records mentioned here are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of The Nebraska Bird Review (NBR).

NOURC Criteria for Accepted Records:

In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOURC 2010). Records in the following categories are classified as accepted:

I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
I-P - diagnostic, labeled photographic evidence exists
I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers. This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2019, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any changes in firmness of data (i.e. placement in the above acceptance categories) of Nebraska birds. Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence, as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 2010 - 2019. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOURC 2017):

Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years.
Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years.
Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years.
Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years.
Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world.

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee.

With this report, the following changes are made to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2017" (NOURC 2017).

Nebraska State List:

The following includes all revisions made by the American Ornithological Society (Chesser et al. 2019) in 2019 including scientific name changes and taxonomic realignment that affect the current published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2017" (NOURC 2017, wwwNOUbirds.org). This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2019 calendar year covering 99 records with accession numbers 2159 – 2257.

2019 Additions/Deletions to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska":

There were no new species added in 2019.

The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" stands at **463** species.

2019 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*): Regular.
2. Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): Regular
3. Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*): Casual.
4. King Rail (*Rallus elegans*): Accidental.
5. Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*): Casual.
6. Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): Regular.
7. Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*). Casual.
8. Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*): Regular.
9. Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*): Casual.

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions (2019):

The Sixtieth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds (Chesser et al. 2019) effected the following changes to the "Official List" of Nebraska Birds.

White-winged Scoter was split – the North American species will retain the name White-winged Scoter but the scientific name will change to (*Melanitta deglandi*).

The Ground-Doves group lose their hyphens; which affects one Nebraska species: Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*).

The Charadrius plovers undergo a new sequence. The new sequence for Nebraska plovers in this group will be:

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)
Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)
Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)
Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*)

Also the AOS initiated a change in sequence for swallows. The new sequence for Nebraska swallows will be:

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)
Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)
Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

New World sparrows (Passerellidae) undergo a new sequence. The new sequence for Nebraska sparrows in this group will be:
Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*)
Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)
Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)
Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)
Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)
Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)
Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)
Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)
Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)
American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*)
Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)
Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)
White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)
Sagebrush Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*)
Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)
LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)
Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza nelsoni*)
Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*)
Henslow's Sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*)
Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*)
Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)
Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)
Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)
Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

The warbler genus *Oreothlypis* has been split. All Nebraska warbler species in this group have been moved to the genus *Leiothlypis*:

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) becomes (*Leiothlypis peregrina*)
Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*) becomes (*Leiothlypis celata*)
Nashville Warbler(*Oreothlypisruficapilla*) becomes (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*)
Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*) becomes (*Leiothlypis virginiae*)

NOURC Accepted Records (Received in 2019):

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

A pair of birds (with at least nine young) from Funk WPA, Phelps Co. were well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, KK) 28 September 2019. Accession # 2227.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, LB) 01 October 2019. Accession # 2228.
3. A written description (Class III, SMo) 04 October 2019. Accession # 2229.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, CCh) 12 October 2019. Accession # 2230.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, BE) 12 October 2019. Accession # 2231.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 15 October 2019. Accession # 2232.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 15 October 2019. Accession # 2233.

Additionally:

8. A description was received (Class III, MAB/EMB) of an adult (with four juvenile birds) observed 16 November 2019 below Gavins Pt. Dam, Cedar County. Accession # 2240.
9. The above five birds were later observed (Class III, MAB) 16 November 2019 flying over Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox County. Accession # 2241.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

1. A photograph (Class 1-P, KG via JGJ) was received of an adult (*B. b. hrota*) that was shot 07 November 2019 near Clay Center, Clay County. Accession # 2250.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, RSt) 22 June 2019 in Gering, Scotts Bluff County. Accession # 2200.
2. Additional photos (Class 1-P, KD) 22 June 2019 of the above bird. Accession # 2201.
3. A single bird coming to a private feeder in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff County was present from 25-29 August 2018. Photographs (Class 1-P, CC) 29 August 2019. Accession # 2202.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on the preceding species.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

1. An immature male was photographed (Class 1-P, MSm via RS) 21 June 2019 at a feeder in Gering, Scotts Bluff County. Accession # 2199.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

1. An immature bird was discovered trapped in a semi-open courtyard at a school in Hastings, Adams County on 13 September 2019. The bird was photographed (Class 1-P, HPD), captured and released unharmed at a nearby wetland. This constitutes the second record for this species in Nebraska. Accession #2219.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class 1-P, JGJ) 17 June 2019 at Troester WPA, Hamilton County. Accession # 2198.

Members of a group of three adult birds and eight young discovered (MAB,ELB) at Hastings WMA, Knox County, were well documented.

2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 10 August 2019. Accession # 2210.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 11 August 2019. Accession # 2211.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, PR) 11 August 2019. Accession # 2212.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, RD) 14 August 2019. Accession # 2213.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, EW) 01 September 2019. Accession # 2217.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1. A light phase adult bird was photographed (Class 1-P, CB) and videotaped 16-20 September at the Calamus Fish Hatchery, Garfield County. Accession # 2225.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

A first-winter bird found (DSw) below Gavins Pt. Dam, Cedar County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 16 November 2019. Accession # 2238.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, PR) 16 November 2019. Accession # 2239.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, RD) 17 November 2019. Accession # 2242.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, PB) 17 November 2019. Accession # 2243.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, KH) 18 November 2019. Accession # 2244.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 19 November 2019. Accession # 2245.
7. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 19 November 2019. Accession # 2246.
8. Photograph (Class 1-P, SM) 19 November 2019. Accession # 2247.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1. An adult was observed (Class 1-P, NA) 19 January 2019 at Lake McConaughy SRA, Keith County. Accession # 2164.

Additionally, a second-cycle bird discovered (NA) at Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster County was well documented.

2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 12 April 2019. Accession # 2177.

3. Photograph (Class 1-P, JR) 12 April 2019. Accession # 2178.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, NA) 12 April 2019. Accession # 2179.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)

1. An immature bird was observed (Class 1-P, SK) 08 December 2019 at Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster County. Accession # 2251.

Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

1. To prevent the bird from possibly flying into airplanes at Offutt Air Force Base, Sarpy County, the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services captured a Harris's Hawk on 14 November 2019. The adult bird was photographed (Class 1-P, MG) and released at a different locale. Accession # 2236.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

1. An eastward adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, MaW) 10 April 2019 in Bellevue, Sarpy County. Accession # 2176.

Additionally, a female discovered 15 September 2019 at Swanson Reservoir SWMA, Hitchcock County, was well documented.

2. Photograph (Class 1-P, KH) Accession # 2221.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, JN) Accession # 2222.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

1. A recently discovered photograph (Class 1-P, MK via CRB) of an adult male seen 29 April 2011 east of Keystone, Keith County, was submitted. Accession # 2191.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

At least two individuals were present along Exit 1, Kimball County, and were documented multiple times from late June through mid-July 2019.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, BE) 29 June 2019. Accession # 2203.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, MW) 04 July 2019. Accession # 2204.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, JGJ) 05 July 2019. Accession # 2205.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, SM) 05 July 2019. Accession # 2206.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, MAB) 17 July 2019. Accession # 2207.
6. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 17 July 2019. Accession # 2208.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

A single bird coming to a private feeder since October 2018 in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff County was well documented.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 01 January 2019. Accession # 2159.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, CC) 01 January 2019. Accession # 2160.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, SB) 02 February 2019. Accession # 2165.
4. Photograph (Class 1-P, BE) 16 February 2019. Accession # 2168.
5. Photograph (Class 1-P, CC) 31 March 2019. Accession # 2174.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)

A single bird coming to a private feeder in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff County, was present from January through March.

1. Photograph (Class 1-P, EMB) 01 January 2019. Accession # 2161.
2. Photograph (Class 1-P, CC) 01 January 2019. Accession # 2162.
3. Photograph (Class 1-P, CC) 31 March 2019. Accession # 2175.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

A single adult male present since mid-November 2018 in a yard in Lincoln, Lancaster County continued in 2019.

1. Photograph (Class I-P, CV) 14 March 2019. Accession # 2171.
2. A description (Class III, CV) 20 March 2019. Accession # 2172.

Additionally:

3. A single adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, CS 24 December 2019 in a yard just over six miles south of the above location in Lincoln, Lancaster County. Accession # 2256.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class 1-P, SMl) 14 December 2019 at Lake McConaughy, Keith County. Accession # 2237.
2. A single bird was photographed (Class 1-P, EMB) 24 November 2019 at Wayne, Wayne County. Accession # 2249.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

1. Two birds were photographed (Class 1-P, SMl) 12 November 2019 at Wildcat Hills RA, Scotts Bluff County. Accession # 2235.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

Two males and a female bird discovered at East Gremlin Outlet Park, Harlan County were well documented.

1. Photographs (Class 1-P, BP) 14 December 2019. Accession # 2252.
2. Photographs (Class 1-P, JN) 15 December 2019. Accession # 2253.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, MW) 01 March 2019 on a cliff face just inside the Wyoming line along Henry Road, Sioux County, but was then observed flying east into Nebraska. Accession # 2170.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

1. At least two birds were photographed (Class I-P, EMB) in a mixed group of crossbills 17 September 2019 in Wayne, Wayne County. Accession # 2224.
2. Individuals of a group of up to seven (male and female) birds were photographed (Class 1-P, DW) 27 December 2019 at the Gordon Cemetery, Sheridan County. Accession # 2257.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on the preceding species.

Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*)

1. A recording (Class I-R, DT) was received of a bird calling along Toadstool Road, Sioux County, 17 May 2019. Accession # 2188.
2. A recording (Class I-R, EK) was received of a bird calling near Bowen, Sioux County, 13 June 2019. Accession # 2197.

Virginia's Warbler (*Leiothlypis virginiae*)

1. A description (Class III, SMl) was received of a bird observed 25 August 2019 in East Ash Creek, Dawes County. Accession # 2216.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

1. A written description (Class III, BH) was received of a bird observed 27 May 2019 at Crystal Cove, Dakota County. Accession # 2193.
2. A written description (Class III, MAB/EMB) was received of a bird observed 30 May 2019 at Ponca SP, Dixon County. Accession # 2195.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)

1. A male bird was photographed (Class 1-P, SMe) 12 May 2019 in Towl Park, Douglas County. Accession # 2187.
2. A description (Class III, JR) was received of an adult male observed 24 August 2019 at Mercer Woods, Douglas County. Accession # 2215.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*)

1. Nebraska's second record was a bird photographed (Class 1-P, EW) 25 September 2019 at Louisville SRA, Cass County. Accession # 2226.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, AJ) 17 May 2019 near North Bend, Dodge County. Accession # 2189.
2. A female was captured, photographed (Class 1-P, AP), and banded 26 May 2019 at Cedar Point Biological Station, Keith County. Accession # 2192.

NOURC Unaccepted Records:

Records in the following categories are considered unaccepted (NOURC 2010):
IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.
V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed.
VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification.

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's non-acceptance of the record.

NOURC Unaccepted Records (Received in 2019):

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

1. A description of eight birds observed 12 May 2019 near Lake Babcock, Platte County lacked detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 2185.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

"Mexican Duck" – Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*)

Mexican Duck was considered a separate species for almost a century, but is now treated as a subspecies of the "typical" Mallard because of extensive hybridization along the United States-Mexico border (AOU 1998).

Recent studies have suggested that it deserves full species recognition – see Silcock, W.R., and J.G. Jorgensen. 2020: https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/mexican-duck/ for taxonomic discussion and Nebraska status. Identification of female "Mexican Duck" can be problematic. The following documentations of a possible female "Mexican Duck" were reviewed by outside experts and conclusions were mixed. Following NOURC guidelines, several members felt that these records deserved a rating of Class IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

1. Photographs/description were received of a female bird seen 14 September 2019 near Madrid, Perkins County. Class IV - Accession # 2220.
2. A description was received of the above bird observed 15 September 2019 near Madrid, Perkins County. Class IV - Accession # 2223.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Several committee members questioned the following record, due to the lack of detailed descriptions and features of the bird relating to possible wild origin.

1. Description (Class VI) of an adult bird 06 August 2019 at Heartland of America Park, Douglas County. Accession # 2209.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

1. A report of a bird heard calling 02 June 2019 near Verdel Landing, Knox County, lacked detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2196.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

1. A description of a single bird seen 02 September 2019 at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County, was suggestive of the species but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2218.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

1. A description of a single bird observed 24 March 2019 at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy County was suggestive of the species, but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class IV -Accession # 2173.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*)

1. A description of a single bird observed 30 May 2019 along Milo Road, Sioux County was suggestive of the species, but lacked in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2194.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

1. A report of a bird heard calling 17 August 2019 at Cloisters On The Platte, Sarpy County lacked detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2214.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

1. A report of bird heard 12 May 2019 along Monroe Canyon Road, Sioux County, was lacking in detail for acceptance. Class V - Accession # 2186.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

1. A recording taken 09 November 2019 at Wayne, Wayne County, was deemed inconclusive as to species identification. Class V - Accession # 2234.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

1. A description of two males seen 21 December 2019 at Ponderosa WMA, Dawes County, lacked detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 2255.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

The species identity of the following photographic records was not in question, but the location where the birds were observed was problematic (inside Wyoming).

1. Photographs – 02 February 2019. Class V - Accession # 2166.
2. Photographs – 02 February 2019. Class V - Accession # 2167.
3. Photographs – 24 February 2019. Class V - Accession # 2169.

NOURC Non-Review List Records (Received in 2019) Filed Without Votes:

The following records are those of species not on the NOURC Review List but which have been accessioned due to other circumstances (out-of range, non-normal date of occurrence, unusual nesting record, etc.). The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on species in these categories. The following records have been filed without NOURC votes.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

1. Photographs (SMl) of a very late individual found 19 November 2019 along Exit 1, Kimball County, were filed. Accession # 2248.
2. Photographs (LD) of an eastward adult first observed 18 December 2019 at Schramm Park SRA, Sarpy County were filed. Many reports of this bird continued on eBird throughout December. Accession # 2254.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

The following documentations of an adult bird found at Walnut Grove Park, Douglas County were filed.

1. Photograph (RSc) 05 May 2019. Accession # 2180.
2. Photograph (MC) 05 May 2019. Accession # 2181.
3. Photograph (SM) 06 May 2019. Accession # 2182.
4. Description (SB) 07 May 2019. Accession # 2183.
5. Description (RSt) 10 May 2019. Accession # 2184.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)

1. Photographs (EMB) of an eastward adult 18 May 2019 at Bob Lake Trail, Lake Babcock, Platte County, were filed. Accession # 2190.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

1. A description (LE) of a bird (possibly two) seen 04 January 2019 at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, was filed. Accession # 2163.

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